Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Method of producing a composite nonwoven for receiving and storing liquids ~~or the like~~, comprising the steps of:

providing a carrier nonwoven, ~~which is e.g. hydraulically needled to consolidate it, and a pulp layer, such as a wood pulp fibre layer applied to the consolidated~~;

consolidating the carrier nonwoven ~~and brought into secure contact with same, characterised in that~~;

applying a thin intermediate microfibre layer ~~is applied~~ to the consolidated carrier nonwoven, ~~e.g., by means of the meltblown process, and the~~;

applying loose pulp ~~fibre layer is first applied~~ fibres to ~~this~~ the intermediate layer; and ~~everything is interconnected~~

interconnecting at least the pulp fibres with, the intermediate layer.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the pulp ~~fibre layer is connected~~ fibres are interconnected to the intermediate microfibre layer and additionally to the carrier nonwoven by means of hydrodynamic needling.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that to the wood pulp layer is applied~~ further comprising applying a fourth layer as a cover layer

~~and everything is together subjected to hydrodynamic needling for connection purposes~~ to the pulp fibres before the step of interconnecting.

4. (currently amended) Device for accomplishing the method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~ comprising, in ~~that the a~~ continuous plant ~~comprising firstly:~~

a web-laying device ~~such as a carding machine (1-4) or a spunbonded fabric system~~ to produce a carrier nonwoven, ~~then, in order to reduce the loss of pulp fibres in the subsequent consolidation,~~

a meltblowing device ~~(7)~~ provided downstream of the web-laying device to apply a fine intermediate layer formed from microfibres on the carrier nonwoven, ~~then a device (8)~~

an air-lay device downstream of the melt blowing device to apply ~~this~~ pulp ~~fibre (wood pulp) layer~~ fibres to the fine intermediate layer, and ~~finally~~

a water needling device ~~(11)~~ provided downstream of the air-lay device to connect at least the pulp fibres to the microfibres ~~and possibly also the fibres of the carrier layer~~.

5. (currently amended) Device according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that it is supplemented by~~ further comprising a device, ~~such as a carding machine (1', 3') or spunbonded fabric system,~~ for applying a cover layer to the pulp ~~fibre layer of the composite nonwoven, followed only then by~~ fibres provided between the air-lay device and the ~~above-mentioned~~ water needling device ~~(11)~~.

6. (currently amended) Device according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that following the web-laying device (1-4) for the carrier nonwoven, first of all~~ further

comprising another water needling device for pre-consolidating the carrier nonwoven, ~~there is a water needling device (6) which is followed in line by~~ provided upstream of the meltblowing device ~~(7)~~.

7. (new) Device according to claim 3, characterised in that the web-laying device is a carding machine.

8. (new) Device according to claim 3, characterised in that the web-laying device is a spunbonded fabric system.

9. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of providing the carrier nonwoven comprises providing a carded nonwoven.

10. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the step of providing the carrier nonwoven comprises providing a spunbonded nonwoven.

11. (new) Method according to claim 1, charactrerised in that the step of applying loose pulp fibres comprises an air-laying pulp fibres on the intermediate layer.

12. (new) Method according to claim 11, characterised in that the steps of the method are carried out in a continuous system.

13. (new) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the steps of the method are carried out in a continuous system.